

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. Each of these claims has been amended to recite that the “electronic-mail processing is designated at the node of the work flow in the first work-flow system” in order to address the Examiner’s concerns.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (U.S. 6,385,640) in view of Frantz (U.S. 6,003,070). This rejection is respectfully traversed especially in view of the forgoing amendments to independent Claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 11.

Each of independent Claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 11 has been amended to recite wherein the method-server apparatus transmits (or step of sending) the command to the second computer apparatus (or second work flow system) when the command relates to a work flow in the second work-flow system, and the second computer apparatus executes (or step of executing) the work flow corresponding to the command in the second work-flow system. This specifically recited feature achieves cooperation among independent work-flow systems and allows one work-flow system to activate a work flow in another work-flow system. This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested in Yamamoto or Franz, alone or in combination. Franz merely teaches that a command can be included in an e-mail but does not teach the specific apparatus and method of work flow cooperation as now specifically recited.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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